

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on September 17, 2004. Claims 1-15 are pending in the Application, Claims 1-6 and 8 stand rejected, and Claims 7 and 9-15 stand objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Claim 8 has been allowed, if rewritten to overcome the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowed and allowable subject matter. Claims 1 and 8 are amended by the present Amendment.

The Specification was objected to because of several informalities, including a lack of proper headings and a non-descriptive title. Applicants note with appreciation the time taken by the Examiner to identify specific areas needing revisions. Applicants have herein submitted amendments to the Specification to correct the outstanding informalities and respectfully request reconsideration of the same.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants submit that the amendments to Claim 8 have overcome this rejection and respectfully request its withdrawal. It is believed that all pending claims are definite and no further rejection on that basis is anticipated. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

Claim 1-6 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-16 of U.S. Patent no. 6,612,341 B2. A terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.321(c) is being filed concurrently with this Amendment. As

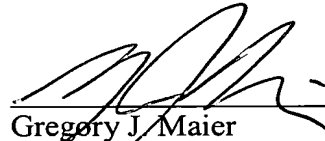
such, the outstanding obviousness-type double patenting rejection of Claims 1-6 is now moot.
Its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-15 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representatives at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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